

Study Sections. *The Commonwealth* also advises members of forthcoming speakers at both the general meetings and the Sections, and other information of importance.

radio network

The Friday talks of the Commonwealth Club are brought to listeners throughout 43 states, plus the District of Columbia; in addition they are heard overseas on the Voice of America. These stations carry the talks every week as a public service. National Public Radio has the largest number of radio stations—approximately 135. The Club also has a regular radio station network in eleven western states of over 100 radio stations. All of the stations advise their listeners of the availability of free talk condensations published in *The Commonwealth*. Requests for these have come from every state in the Union.

accomplishments

The Club's influence has been felt largely via its Reports, as the Club does not engage in legislative activity. Copies of the important Reports, with their pro and con analyses, are sent to Congressmen and Legislators for their information. Commonwealth Club studies and analyses have covered such problems as:

- Small Claims Court.
- Establishment of the office of Public Defender.
- The State Judicial Council to unify the State's courts.
- The sponsor system of candidate nomination.
- Permanent voter registration.
- Permanent civilian defense and disaster preparedness statutes.
- Voters' pamphlet on ballot measures.
- General revision of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Convenient voting hours law.
- Election of non-partisan officers receiving primary majority.
- Examination, before licensing automobile drivers.
- Absentee Voters Law.
- Regional government for San Francisco Bay Area.
- Rapid transit.
- Solid waste disposal methods.
- Regulation of the quality of public waters.
- Insurance for natural disasters.

library

The Club's Library is maintained as part of the headquarters in the Monadnock Arcade, 681 Market Street. It includes 5,000 volumes largely concerned with those matters which the Club has studied through its Sections, such as subjects relating to state and local government. There is a fine quick reference shelf, an excellent news and periodical index, and one of the best collections of current biography in the area. Also included are many works by California authors, accumulated as entries in the Club's annual California literature contest.



club transactions

The reports of the Study Sections of the Commonwealth Club of California, are frequently in demand by scholars and government officials seeking to find the background of a piece of legislation, for often these are the only published materials on important California issues. The bound volumes of the Club's Reports since 1903, and those of Study Section minutes since 1924, are available to members in the Club Reading Room. A microfilm edition of the Club's publications is also available through University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

literature awards

One of the highlights of the year is the Literature Awards—the Club's gold and silver literature medals are presented to those California authors whose books published the preceding year are deemed "most worthy." The awards are preceded by a series of selection sessions by the Club's Literature Award Jury, made up of some of the State's foremost literateurs. In over four decades, the Commonwealth Club book contest has become recognized as one of the outstanding regional literary awards.

the board of governors and elected officers

Responsible for continuing the Club's tradition of service to state and nation, and for conducting the Club's affairs, are the members of the Board of Governors. They are selected from the membership based upon service to the Club and recognition in the community. A nominating committee consisting of the five immediate past presidents proposes the candidates, and election is by secret mail ballot of the entire Club. The Club's Executive Committee, selected from the Board, deals more closely with Section problems and financial matters. The President is chief executive officer.

distinguished speakers

Since our 1903 founding most U.S. Presidents have addressed our membership. All California Governors from Pardee to Brown have accepted invitations to speak to the Commonwealth Club of California.

A few of the other outstanding speakers heard by the Club's membership since 1903:

Bella Abzug - Joseph Alsop - Apollo 14 & 16 Astronauts - Shirley Temple Black - Willie Brown, Jr. - Ralph J. Bunche - Dr. Arthur F. Burns - Mme. Chiang Kai-shek - Mme. Claire L. Chennault - Shirley Chisholm - Alan Cranston - Clarence Darrow - General Charles de Gaulle - John Foster Dulles - Cyrus Eaton - Abba Eban - Ludwig Erhard - Henry Ford II - James Forrestal - Sir John Glubb (Pasha) - Barry Goldwater - Samuel Gompers - Billy Graham - Katherine Graham - Admiral William F. Halsey - William Randolph Hearst, Jr. - Aileen Hernandez - Hubert H. Humphrey - Sen. Jacob K. Javits - Queen Juliana - Herman Kahn - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy - Nikita Khrushchev - Rev. Martin Luther King - Ann Landers - Henry Cabot Lodge - Clare Boothe Luce - Harold Macmillan - Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy - George Meany - Sen. Edward S. Muskie - Ralph Nader - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz - Lawrence O'Brien - David Packard - Lord C. Northcote Parkinson - President Georges Pompidou - King Paul of Hellenes - Dr. Linus Pauling - Walter Reuther - Syngman Rhee - Elliot Richardson - Nelson A. Rockefeller - Dean Rusk - Emperor Haile Selassie I - Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg - Dr. Benjamin Spock - Adlai Stevenson - Dr. Edward Teller - Caspar W. Weinberger - Dr. Werner von Braun - Gov. George Wallace - Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.



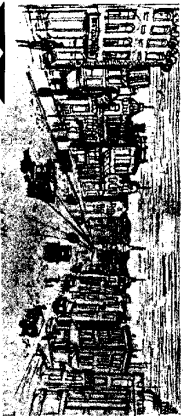
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COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

Dedicated to
"Getting the Facts"



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History

At the turn of the century a San Francisco newspaperman, Edward F. Adams, believed that a state needed a citizens' group to study public questions impartially and to publish reports, giving all sides of the issues, with the Club's recommendation. When a University of California president, a future Supreme Court justice, a newspaper editor and a State College president joined him at the 1903 founding meeting, he knew the Club was on its way. A few years later the famous Friday forum featured one of the Club—presenting distinguished speakers of a wide diversity of viewpoints—was established. Adams' basic ideas are still followed.

Membership

Membership of the Commonwealth Club of California is concentrated in California, but there are members in all parts of the world. The primary qualification is that an applicant be a good citizen, concerned with matters of importance to the state, the nation, and the world; and recognized as such by his peers. Headquarters are in San Francisco and the majority of members live in the San Francisco Bay Region. Some 40% live in other parts of the world.

The dues structure reflects the fact that those at a distance are usually not able to participate as fully as those who live closer to San Francisco. There is a lower rate for members living more than 40 miles from San Francisco, as well as a special rate for those through 29 year of age.

activities

New ways of carrying out Founder Adams' basic ideas have been added to the Club's activities from time to time. But the Club still relies primarily on its Sections which study public questions, its Friday forums where the viewpoints of men of national stature are aired, and its research projects which "get the facts" on long-term fundamental issues. The published results of these activities are available to all members. There are also 3 language classes and foreign study tours designed to

supplement the work of the Club's Study Sections.

Friday speakers

Some four thousand speakers, many of international renown have addressed the world-recognized Friday meetings of the Commonwealth Club of California. Scientists, statesmen—nearly all the Presidents of the United States since 1903—educators, religious leaders, military chiefs, labor officials have brought their messages, uncensored, to the Club's audiences. Many heads of state have also been included.

People from all walks of life and points of view have spoken—those with the capes of a dozen honored degrees and those of no wide renown but with a significant message.

Even in the face of public opposition, the Club has maintained the position that it has the right to have speakers representing controversial points of view. Some of these speakers have included Sgt. Ben Kuroki, whose Commonwealth Club speech in the midst of World War II has been judged the most important factor in the peaceful return to this Coast of interned Americans of Japanese descent.

The Club is also unique, in that during Presidential election years, the membership has the opportunity to see and hear virtually every major Presidential candidate.



Study sections

Unduplicated anywhere are the Study Sections of the Commonwealth Club of California—nineteen individual "clubs within the Club", each dedicated to finding the facts in an important field of public concern. The unique nature of the Study Sections is that they always insist on all sides—always demand both the affirmative and the negative of any proposal and always include in their final report on any subject of study a summary of the most important arguments.

In the process the Club's Study Sections hear from the experts, from people in and out of government who know the most about a given issue. So, even to the member who can

attend only occasionally, Section talks are a significantly rewarding experience.

And when the experts appear before Study Sections they find many experts within their audience, for the Club's membership includes an unusually high percentage of California leaders—of men and women who know—and the Sections provide a place where laymen and expert meet together and where each may frequently enlighten the other.

The diversity of Study Sections is illustrated by the titles of a few of them: Administration of Justice; Agriculture; Business Economics; Environment & Energy; Governmental Finance; Transportation; International Relations; Local & Regional Government; Urban Affairs; Water; the complete list appears elsewhere.



When a Section has heard "all sides" on an issue, a report is prepared, the information summarized pro and con, a vote taken by secret mail ballot on the most important aspects of the question. The report is then presented to a general meeting of the Club—with further discussion from all sides invited. The comments of the meeting are condensed and published, along with the complete report, and mailed to every member.

Characteristic of the Commonwealth Club is this secret mail ballot. It is the device whereby a Section determines its study topic, agrees upon its conclusions, and it is also used by the Club's membership as a whole to decide whether a Section's conclusions shall be the official recommendations of Commonwealth Club of California's membership. It is a precept of the Club that all these steps are taken on the basis of full information, pro and con, distributed to every member voting.

ballot issues

In even-numbered years, California voters are normally faced with from 15 to 20 state constitutional amendments, initiative acts, and referenda. For over half a century, one of the most sought after voting aids has been the compilation of reports and recommendations

by the Club's Study Sections, with the official vote of the entire Club membership. The Sections hear leading pro and con spokesmen and their reports contain the essential arguments on both sides, as well as the Section's recommendations. The Commonwealth Club Reports on state ballot measures are generally considered the most authoritative information available.

research & education

A fund named for the Commonwealth Club is maintained by the Club.



One of the main functions of this fund has been to conduct research on important state and national problems. Some of the subjects researched with Commonwealth Club financing have been the Legislative Insurance, the Population of California, California Social Welfare, "The Powers of the President in Foreign Affairs," and the recently published report "Land Use, Open Space and the Government Process."

Extreme care is given to selection of topic for research. A special committee of the Club's Board of Governors is appointed and, with the assistance of scholars, surveys the field. When the topic is determined, a research director is selected and a preliminary study made before the final study is undertaken. The work is always done by professional research people. The results have been widely influential in bringing about a better understanding of the important problems examined.

This Fund is also utilized to extend the range of the radio broadcasts of the Club's Friday speakers' talks.

the weekly commonwealth

To many members, one of the most valuable services the Club offers (particularly to those unable to attend meetings very often) is *The Commonwealth*—a news-letter carrying every week, in highlight form, the essence of the message of the preceding Friday's speaker and answers to the more probing audience questions, also the most significant and instructive of the many talks before the Club's